

LOUIS WERNER II KILLED WITH 4 OTHERS AS PLANE HITS IDAHO CANYON WALL



Killed in Plane Crash

Louis Werner II

Member of prominent
St. Louis family



George Skakel Jr.

Brother of
Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy



Dean P. Markham

Vice President of Great
Lakes Carbon Corp.

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this month. On Sept. 14 a small plane crashed near Stanley, killing Idaho's Democratic nominee for governor Charles Herndon, and two other men.

Werner, 42 years old, left St. Louis Thursday for the elk-hunting trip. An avid sportsman, he had made similar trips in the past with Skakel. Both were expert polo players and often played together in matches in St. Louis and New York.

In addition to his service as chief of the St. Louis regional office of the CIA, Werner was a director of Mercantile Trust Co. and had been appointed last June as a member of the Open Space Council, which is working for passage of the \$25,000,000 county park bond issue.

Princeton Graduate

Werner was born in St. Louis. He attended St. Louis Country Day School and was graduated from St. Paul's School, Concord, N.H., in 1941. He was a cum laude graduate from Princeton University in 1946.

He served in World War II as a Navy fighter pilot. He was twice decorated for combat services in the South Pacific.

Werner was a private investment banker, associated with his brother, Joseph G. Werner, with offices in the Boatmen's Bank Building. He was a member of the Bridlespur Hunt Club.

Werner lived on Shackleford road in Florissant, a St. Louis suburb, with his wife and four children. Mrs. Werner, the former Anne Kennett Farrar Desloge, was Veiled Prophet Queen in 1946.

The werners have two daughters, Elsie and Anne D., and two sons, Louis G. and Peter D. Werner. Other survivors are his mother, Mrs. Joseph L. Werner of St. Louis, and a sister, Mrs. Horace F. Henriques Jr., Greenwich, Conn.

Headed New York Firm

Skakel, who lived at Greenwich, Conn., was president of the Great Lakes Carbon Co. of New York. He was 47. His parents were killed in a crash of a company plane in 1953.

Markham, 47, was a vice president of Great Lakes Carbon in charge of the firm's Washington office. In the Administration of the late President Kennedy he served on the President's Council of Physical Fitness and was executive director of the President's Advisory Commission on Narcotics and Drug Abuse.

R. F. KENNEDY'S BROTHER-IN-LAW ALSO VICTIM OF AIRSTRIPE CRASH

Elk Hunting Party on
Way to Guest Ranch

Craft Tried Sec-
ond Approach

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Witnesses said their single-engine plane, loaded with hunting gear, overshot a small airstrip at the ranch. The pilot tried to pull up for another approach, found himself in the deadend Crooked Creek Canyon, and crashed against the canyon wall.

White House Ex-Aid Victim
Other victims were:

Dean P. Markham, McLean, Va., an assistant to Skakel and former White House aid in the administration of the late President John F. Kennedy.

Earl Ranft, president of Graybar Dredging Corp., Jersey City, N. J.

Sgt. Donald Adams, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, the pilot.

The bodies of the five men were taken from the wreckage of the plane in the central Idaho primitive area. A helicopter moved them to an airstrip downstream where an ambulance waited to return them here.

Idaho Aeronautics Director Chet Moulton said the pilot of the Cessna 185 apparently was unfamiliar with the rugged country. He said the plane, the third of the four taking the hunting party to the ranch, attempted to land about 6 p.m. in the 1800-foot grass and gravel landing strip a few hundred yards from the main Salmon River.

Hit Knoll, Bounced

"He came in high and hot—that's fast," Moulton said. "He hit a knoll and bounced. He gave it throttle and tried to pull up for another approach."

Moulton said the only way to go if a pilot does not land after making his approach is up the Crooked creek, a stream that rises fast into a narrow steep canyon.

There is no room for a plane to turn around in the canyon. The pilot apparently discovered this about five miles upstream, tried to turn and then crashed, Moulton said.

"If they'd have used some schooled pilot who had known the strip it wouldn't have happened," he said.

Thomas Wyman of New York city, a member of the hunting party, said he was on an earlier plane and saw the Cessna try to land. "He overshot the runway and came down on the runway, and then took off again," he said.

All Thrown Clear

Wyman and other friends of the victims went into the canyon in the night and found the wreckage. They had heard the plane crash. He said all five occupants were thrown clear of the wreckage. The plane, he reported, hit very few trees and struck the bank of Crooked creek and landed in the water.

The plane crash was the second in Idaho's primitive area

By a Special Correspondent
Of the Post-Dispatch
BOISE, Idaho, Sept. 24—Louis Werner II, member of a prominent St. Louis family, and four other persons were killed late yesterday in a crash of a light plane near here.

Another victim was George Skakel Jr. of New York, a brother-in-law of United States Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Werner and Skakel were close friends.

For the last 15 years Werner was chief of the St. Louis regional office of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The five were in one of four planes carrying an elk-hunting party of 20 persons to a guest ranch in an Idaho wilderness area on the Salmon river, about 24 miles north of here.